Agenda Committee 1/16/2024
Item 10 - City Council Legislative Systems Redesign
Discussion Items - Part 1

Background:

The Agenda Committee presented materials and solicited input from the City Council during fall of 2023 regarding possible Legislative Systems Redesign options. The goal of Systems Redesign is to improve processes for developing, introducing, vetting, passing, funding, and implementation of Major Council Items and initiatives. Based on City Council input, the Agenda Committee has been tasked with proposing a new set of improvements to:

1. Consider possible refinements to the definition of Major Items
2. Make the Council Item Guidelines mandatory for Major Items (formerly referred to as "Policy Track Items")
3. Establish transparent deadlines for budget processes and clarity about what kind of "asks" can be submitted/considered at each budget cycle
4. Strengthen the Committee System to provide more in-depth review and vetting of Major Items
5. Clarify levels of input from Staff and City Attorney at all stages, from development to implementation
6. Clarify processes and timelines for implementation of items once passed and funded
7. Establish protocols for one-time vetting/disposition of currently backlogged items
8. Consider yearly prioritization processes in light of the intended outcome of fewer, more fully considered Major Items in the queue

To facilitate focused discussion, this memo only addresses proposals related to items 1, 2, and 3, above. Additional considerations will be discussed at subsequent meetings.

1. **Consider possible refinements to the definition of Major Items**
   "Major Items" are items meeting the current definition of *Policy Committee Track Items*:

   > *"Moderate to significant administrative, operational, budgetary, resource, or programmatic impacts."*

   Some Councilmembers expressed that the definition might be further clarified. After discussing a variety of options, and considering times when the definition might have

proved problematic, it was decided that no changes should be proposed; the definition appears to provide good guidance to members of the Agenda & Rules Committee and has not been a source of controversy to date.

Consideration was given to potentially require all Ordinance changes to be labeled Major Items, but on further discussion, it was concluded that only Ordinance changes/new Ordinances with "moderate to significant administrative, operations, budgetary, resources, or programmatic impacts" would be worthy of being considered as Major Items - thus reinforcing the appropriateness of the existing definition.

One possible improvement could be to add examples of items that may be considered Major Items, rather than to amend the rule:

> *"Examples may include, but are not limited to Items that:*
> - *Clarify or extend existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws in moderate to significantly impactful ways*
> - *Change/Amend existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws in moderate to major ways*
> - *Create a new and meaningful exception to existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws*
> - *Reverse/change existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws in moderate to significant ways*
> - *May require moderate to significant increases in funding or additional FTE for start-up and/or ongoing operations"*

Recommendation: Keep existing definition, add examples, and revisit should controversies occur.

2. **Make the Council Item Guidelines mandatory for Major Items (formerly referred to as "Policy Track Items")**

In discussing this seemingly straightforward concept, a number of considerations arose that are addressed in the following proposed path forward.

The Council Rules of Procedure and Order already include an outline of what is "required" for Council items, in Section XXX of the Rules. The Guidelines – suggested but not required and included in an Appendix to the Rules – were built from the Rules, providing more elaboration and specificity.

As suggested but not required, the Guidelines have not been "in conflict" with the Rules. However, adopting the Guidelines as requirements changes this equation; *the existing Rules and the Guidelines cannot both be simultaneously required*. The proposed path forward addresses the potential conflict that arises when the Guidelines are adopted as mandatory for Major Items.

In addition, if the Guidelines are mandatory only for Major Items, we must consider what will be mandatory for "all other" items – hereinafter referred to as "Standard Items." The proposed path forward thus addresses both Major Item and Standard Item requirements.

Another consideration is how the Agenda Committee will evaluate whether an item - Major or Standard - is in compliance with mandatory requirements, and what the Agenda Committee must or may do if it finds an item falls short of the requirements. The following proposal addresses these issues as well.

Finally, the Guidelines were reviewed to identify any possible edits that might be suggested prior to adoption of the Guidelines as mandatory.

<u>Proposal:</u>
1. Make Edits to Guidelines:
   a. Remove "preamble" language
   b. Make light changes to the Guidelines and expand illustrative examples
   c. *See Edited Version of the Guidelines*

2. Remove/eliminate existing Rules about how to present/write Items and adopt a two-tiered set of Rules for **Standard Items** and **Major Items**, based on the Guidelines.
   a. For **Major Items**, make the full Guidelines MANDATORY
   b. For **Standard Items**, make elements **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 14 and 15** of the Guidelines MANDATORY, with other elements RECOMMENDED.
   c. **Drafting Consideration** - Keep the Guidelines as an Appendix – incorporated by reference into the Rules – rather than "pasting" the full Guidelines directly into the Rules.

    d. **Clerk Templates** - the Clerk's Office will create updated, more user-friendly and easily accessible templates for Major and Standard Items, as well as for Supplemental, Late, and other Submissions.

    e. For "**Speciality Items**" such as D13 Account grants, letters and resolutions in support of State or Federal Legislation, and other "special" Item types, the Clerk's Office will provide updated RECOMMENDED templates.

3. **For MANDATORY elements of *both Major and Standard Items***, suggest adopting the following (or similar) standard for review by the Agenda Committee:

   If a Major or Standard Item, as submitted by the Primary Author, does not substantially and materially meet reasonably applicable Mandatory Elements of the Guidelines, the Agenda & Rules Committee shall request, and may require, that the Primary Author provide additional analysis and/or consultation to fulfill Guideline requirements.

   If the Agenda & Rules Committee requests or requires the Primary Author to provide additional analysis or consultation, the Item may or shall be referred back to the Primary Author and may be resubmitted for a future Agenda.

4. **For RECOMMENDED elements of Standard Items and Speciality Items**, authorize the Agenda Committee to do what it currently has the power to do under Rules Section (C)(1) (with some edits):

   Refer the item back to the Primary Author for adherence to ~~required~~ recommended form or for additional analysis as ~~required~~ recommended in Section III.B.2 (Primary Author may decline and request Policy Committee assignment).

5. **For Emergency/Time Sensitive Items**, Items can bypass mandatory Guidelines requirements if the Agenda Committee makes the findings for a Time Critical Track Item (existing definition).

   Proposed Standard for allowing Emergency/Time Sensitive Items to go forward without fulfilling the Mandatory Guidelines:

The Agenda Committee may make an exception to Mandatory Guidelines requirements for a Major or Standard Item if the Item meets the definition of a Time Critical Track Item, as provided in Section (3)(g)(1) of the Rules, in which case the Item may go forward as submitted on the Action Calendar for the Agenda under consideration with a notation, added by the Clerk's Office, that additional materials have been requested by the Agenda Committee. The Primary Author shall submit such additional materials as a Supplemental 1 filing.

Time Critical Track Item Definition (existing, Section (3)(g)(1)):
A Time Critical item is defined as a matter that is considered urgent by the sponsor and that has a deadline for action that is prior to the next meeting of the Council.

6. **Appeals - provide a mechanism to appeal Agenda Committee decisions to the full Council?**
   May be advisable to have a bypass mechanism - or not?

3. **Establish transparent deadlines for budget processes and clarity about what kind of "asks" can be submitted/considered at each budget cycle**

The Council did not support a single, yearly cycle for submitting Council items, but expressed a desire for clear deadlines to be established for submission/ consideration of items for various budget processes. In addition, questions have arisen regarding what kinds of requests can/should be submitted for consideration at various junctures in the yearly/biennial budget cycle.

Overall, it was determined that *the Agenda Committee should formally ask the Budget Committee for guidance on these questions*, as they fall more squarely into the Budget Committee's purview.

● By when should Standard and Major Items with budgetary considerations be passed out from Council to be considered in the June budget adoption/update?
● Working back from that date, by when should a Major Item or Standard Item be submitted, to allow time for consideration by the appropriate

Policy Committee and/or the City Council? (This may be a question for Agenda & Rules Committee to determine, once B&F sets the deadline)

- What kinds of budget requests are allowed/appropriate for the June budget?
- Consider establishing deadlines for the City Manager to bring Budget Updates (Fall and Spring) to the City Council.
- With established deadlines for Budget Updates, work back to establish deadlines for Major and Standard items to be submitted for consideration at each Budget Update. (This may be a question for Agenda & Rules Committee to determine, once B&F sets the deadline)
- What kinds of budget requests will be considered at Fall and Spring updates - from both Council and from the City Manager/Staff?
- If only emergency/time sensitive requests will be considered (or, for example, expansions of existing programs but not new programs, etc.), how will excess funds, if any, be rolled over and made available for Council priorities at the next June budget?

APPENDIX B. GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING AND WRITING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

~~These guidelines are derived from the requirements for Agenda items listed in the Berkeley City Council Rules of Procedure and Order, Chapter III, Sections B(1) and (2), reproduced below. In addition, Chapter III Section C(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Order allows the Agenda & Rules Committee to request that the Primary Author of an item provide "additional analysis" if the item as submitted evidences a "significant lack of background or supporting information" or "significant grammatical or readability issues."~~

~~These guidelines provide a more detailed and comprehensive overview of elements of a complete Council item.~~ These ~~g~~Guidelines are mandatory for all Major Items and strongly recommended for ~~all other council reports~~Standard Items. While not all elements ~~would be~~are applicable to every type of ~~A~~agenda item, the Guidelines~~y are intended to~~ prompt Authors to consider important elements of a complete item and to present ~~presenting~~ items with as much relevant information and analysis as possible.~~ ~~

~~Chapter III, Sections (B)(1) and (2) of Council Rules of Procedure and Order:~~

~~2. Agenda items shall contain all relevant documentation, including the following as Applicable:~~
   ~~a. A descriptive title that adequately informs the public of the subject matter and general nature of the item or report and action requested;~~
   ~~b. Whether the matter is to be presented on the Consent Calendar or the Action Calendar or as a Report for Information;~~
   ~~c. Recommendation of the City Manager, if applicable (these provisions shall not apply to Mayor and Council items.);~~
   ~~d. Fiscal impacts of the recommendation;~~
   ~~e. A description of the current situation and its effects;~~
   ~~f. Background information as needed;~~
   ~~g. Rationale for recommendation;~~
   ~~h. Alternative actions considered;~~
   ~~i. For awards of contracts; the abstract of bids and the Affirmative Action Program of the low bidder in those cases where such is required (these provisions shall not apply to Mayor and Council items.);~~
   ~~j. Person or persons to contact for further information, with telephone number. If the Primary Author of any report believes additional background information, beyond the basic report, is necessary to Council understanding of the subject, a separate compilation of such background information may be developed and copies will be available for Council and for public review in the City Clerk Department, and the City Clerk shall provide limited distribution of such background information depending upon quantity of pages to be~~

~~duplicated. In such case the agenda item distributed with the packet shall so indicate.~~

Guidelines for City Council Items:

1. Title
2. Consent/Action/Information Calendar
3. Recommendation
4. Summary Statement/Current situation and its effects
5. Background
6. Review of Existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws
7. Actions/Alternatives Considered
8. Consultation/Outreach Overview and Results
9. Rationale for Recommendation
10. Implementation, Administration and Enforcement
11. Environmental Sustainability
12. Fiscal ~~Impacts~~Considerations
13. Outcomes and Evaluation
14. Contact Information
15. Attachments/Supporting Materials

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1. <u>Title</u>
A descriptive title that adequately informs the public of the subject matter and general nature of the item or report and action requested.

2. <u>Consent/Action/Information Calendar</u>
Whether the matter is to be presented on the Consent Calendar or the Action Calendar or as a Report for Information.

3. <u>Recommendation</u>
Clear, succinct statement of action(s) to be taken. Recommendations can be further detailed within the item, by specific reference.

Common action options, that can be presented singularly or in combination with others, include:
- Adopt first reading of ordinance
- Adopt a resolution
- Referral to the City Manager (City Manager decides if it is a short term referral or is placed on the RRV ranking list)
- Direction to the City Manager (City Manager is directed to execute the recommendation right away; it is not placed on any referral list)
- Referral to a Commission, ~~or to a Standing or Ad Hoc~~ Council Policy Committee, or other Legislative Body

- Referral to the budget process
- Send letter of support
- Accept, Approve, Modify or Reject a recommendation from a Commission or Committee
- Designate members of the Council to perform some action

4. **Summary Statement/ "Current situation and its effects"**

   A short resume of the circumstances that give rise to the need for the recommended action(s).
   - Briefly state the opportunity/problem/concern that has been identified, and the proposed solution.
   - Example (fictional):
     Winter rains are lasting longer than expected. Berkeley's winter shelters are poised to close in three weeks, but forecasts suggest rain for another two months. If they do not remain open until the end of the rainy season, hundreds of people will be left in the rain 24/7. Therefore, this item seeks authorization to keep Berkeley's winter shelters open until the end of April, and refers to the Budget Process $40,000 to cover costs of an additional two months of shelter operations.

5. **Background**

   A full discussion of the history, circumstances and concerns to be addressed by the item.
   - For the above fictional example, Background would include *information and data about the number and needs of homeless individuals in Berkeley, the number and availability of permanent shelter beds that meet their needs, the number of winter shelter beds that would be lost with closure, the impacts of such closure on this population, the weather forecasts, etc.*

6. **Review of Existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws**

   Review, identify and discuss relevant/applicable Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws, and how the proposed actions conform with, compliment, are supported by, differ from or run contrary to them. What gaps were found that need to be filled? What existing policies, programs, plans and laws need to be changed/supplemented/improved/repealed? What is missing altogether that needs to be addressed?

   Review of all pertinent/applicable sections of:
   - The City Charter
   - Berkeley Municipal Code
   - Administrative Regulations
   - Council Resolutions
   - Staff training manuals

   Review of all applicable City Plans:

- The General Plan
- Area Plans
- The Climate Action Plan
- Resilience Plan
- Equity Plan
- Capital Improvements Plan
- Zero Waste Plan
- Bike Plan
- Pedestrian Plan
- Other relevant precedents and plans

Review of the City's Strategic Plan
Review of similar legislation previously introduced/passed by Council
Review of County, State and Federal laws/policies/programs/plans, if applicable

7. **Actions/Alternatives Considered**
- What solutions/measures have **other jurisdictions** adopted that serve as models/cautionary tales?
- What solutions/measures are recommended by **advocates, experts, organizations**?
- What is the range of actions considered, and what are some of their major pros and cons?
- Why were other solutions not as feasible/advisable?

8. **Consultation/Outreach Overview and Results**
- Review/list external and internal stakeholders that were consulted, as relevant.
  - **External**: constituents, communities, neighborhood organizations, businesses and not for profits, advocates, people with lived experience, faith organizations, industry groups, people/groups that might have concerns about the item, etc.
  - **Internal**: staff who would implement policies, the City Manager and/or deputy CM, Department Heads, City Attorney, City Clerk, etc.
  - **Commissions**: what Commissions were or will be consulted and what were their recommendations/concerns/suggestions?
- What reports, articles, books, websites and other materials were consulted?
- What was learned from these sources?
- What changes or approaches did they advocate for that were accepted or rejected?

9. **Rationale for Recommendation**
A clear and concise statement as to whether the item proposes actions that:
- Conform to, clarify or extend existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws

- Change/Amend existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws in **minor** ways
- Change/Amend existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws in **major** ways
- Create an exception to existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws
- Reverse/go contrary to or against existing Plans, Programs, Policies and Laws

Argument/summary of argument in support of recommended actions. The argument likely has already been made via the information and analysis already presented, but should be presented/restated/summarized. ~~Plus~~In addition, further elaboration of terms for recommendations, if any, should be spelled out with clarity.

- Example: *Keeping winter shelters open for an extra three months extends the City's existing Winter Shelter program in a minor way. The shelters have been open during inclement weather every year for decades, and have been extended to accommodate extended rainy and cold seasons in previous years. Keeping winter shelters open through April ensures our homeless neighbors will continue to have a place to keep dry and warm and supports the City's strategic plan goal of providing services to those with critical needs in our community. All services associated with the Winter Shelter program, including but not limited to meal and storage services, are specifically included in the direction to extend the program.*

10. **Implementation, Administration and Enforcement**
Discuss how the recommended action(s) would be implemented, administered and enforced. What staffing (internal or via contractors/consultants) and materials/facilities are likely required for implementation? Initial, high-level consultation with the City Manager and/or the City Attorney regarding implementation, administration, and enforcement is strongly recommended, but not required.

11. **Environmental Sustainability**
Discuss the impacts of the recommended action(s), if any, on the environment and the recommendation's positive and/or negative implications with respect to the City's Climate Action, Resilience, and other sustainability goals.

12. **Fiscal ~~Impacts~~Considerations**
Review the recommended action's potential to generate funds or savings for the City in the short and long-term, as well as the potential direct and indirect costs and benefits. Initial, high-level consultation with the City Manager and/or the City Attorney regarding the fiscal impacts of the proposal is strongly recommended, but not required.

13. **Outcomes and Evaluation**
State the specific outcomes expected, if any.

- (i.e.,Example: *"it is expected that ~~100~~ 300 homeless people will be ~~referred to housing every year~~able to access dry and warm shelter during the 3-month extension of the winter shelter program"*)

Also state~~and~~ what reporting or evaluation is recommended.

- Example: *The shelter operator shall keep an accounting of the number and any available demographic information about individuals who use the shelter during the extension period and report to the City Council, through the City Manager, on success or challenges of the program extension).*

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- What reports, articles, books, websites and other materials were consulted?

- What was learned from these sources?
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   - Example: *Keeping winter shelters open for an extra three months extends the City's existing Winter Shelter program in a minor way. The shelters have been open during inclement weather every year for decades, and have been extended to accommodate extended rainy and cold seasons in previous years. Keeping winter shelters open through April ensures our homeless neighbors will continue to have a place to keep dry and warm and supports the City's strategic plan goal of providing services to those with critical needs in our community. All services associated with the Winter Shelter program, including but not limited to meal and storage services, are specifically included in the direction to extend the program.*

10. **Implementation, Administration and Enforcement**
    Discuss how the recommended action(s) would be implemented, administered and enforced. What staffing (internal or via contractors/consultants) and materials/facilities are likely required for implementation? Initial, high-level consultation with the City Manager and/or the City Attorney regarding implementation, administration, and enforcement is strongly recommended, but not required.

11. **Environmental Sustainability**
    Discuss the impacts of the recommended action(s), if any, on the environment and the recommendation's positive and/or negative implications with respect to the City's Climate Action, Resilience, and other sustainability goals.

12. **Fiscal Considerations**
    Review the recommended action's potential to generate funds or savings for the City in the short and long-term, as well as the potential direct and indirect costs and benefits. Initial, high-level consultation with the City Manager and/or the City

Attorney regarding the fiscal impacts of the proposal is strongly recommended, but not required.

13. **Outcomes and Evaluation**

State the specific outcomes expected, if any.

- Example: *"It is expected that 300 homeless people will be able to access dry and warm shelter during the 3-month extension of the winter shelter program."*

Also state what reporting or evaluation is recommended.

- Example: "*The shelter operator shall keep an accounting of the number and any available demographic information about individuals who use the shelter during the extension period and report to the City Council, through the City Manager, on success or challenges of the program extension)."*

14. **Contact Information**

15. **Attachments/Supporting Materials**